10:St. Johnston G-5 (no date) 1918
OQ6 Lau OQ6

*539 123 776 A little shiver passed over the old lady as she finished speaking, and on looking out I saw that the lengthening shadows of the trees had reached to the house door. She took up a sheet of *tappa*[1] to put about her shoulders, and I rose to go, thanking her for the entertainment she had given me.

"'Tis but a little telling of our ancient stories," she said; "and there are many more that come into my mind. Should you come again there are certain tales to be told of Dakuwaqa, the great shark-god of eastern Fiji; and of Ulumatua, the serpent, who was the eldest son of Dengei himself; but I cannot now remember things as I could in the days gone by. I am getting old, I suppose, and my death is not far off," she added calmly.

And so I left her, the tales of the old gods still [788] ringing in my ears, while as I passed through the village the chant of evensong and family prayers came from the houses of devout Lauans, whose fathers, perhaps, and whose grandfathers, without doubt, had brought offerings with fear and trembling to those same gods of whom I had heard that day.

[1] Native cloth.